

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional) 112740-184	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____ Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____		Application Number 09/786,063	Filed July 10, 2001
First Named Inventor Stefan Hennen et al.		Art Unit 2616	
Examiner Bob A. Phunkulh			

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).
 Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.


I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
 See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
 (Form PTO/SB/96)

☒ attorney or agent of record.
 Registration number 48,196

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.
 Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____



 Signature
 Peter Zura

 Typed or printed name
 312-807-4208

 Telephone number

August 9, 2006

 Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☒ *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Stefan Hennen et al.
Appl. No.: 09/786,063
Conf. No.: 6452
Filed: July 10, 2001
Title: TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TRANSMITTING
DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM SYNCHRONIZATION
METHOD
Art Unit: 2661
Examiner: Bob A. Phunkulh
Docket No.: 112740-184

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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED, TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Sir:

This request is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2006 and Advisory Action dated June 19, 2006. This request is filed contemporaneously with USPTO form PTO/SB/33, "Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review" and form PTO/SB/31, "Notice of Appeal."

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS

Claims 28-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 28, 37 and 47 are the focus of this request.

Claims 28-33, 37-42 and 45-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by *Wolf* (US Patent 6,163,551). Claims 34-36, 43-44 and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wolf* (US Patent 6,163,551) in view of *Wolf* (US Patent 5,886,996). Applicant respectfully submits the rejections are improper and requests reversal by this board.

Specifically, *Wolf* fails to disclose the feature of “a converter in the at least one interface unit which converts the data describing the quality of the clock signal into messages, the format of the messages *being independent of a format of the data transmitted*, and which transmits the messages to the device for assessment” as recited in independent claim 28 and similarly recited in independent claim 37 (“receiving data, from the at least one transmission network and in a format used in the at least one transmission network, which describes a quality of the clock signal supplied; converting the data into messages of a format which is independent of the format of the received data”) and claim 47 (“generating a message describing the quality in a format which is independent of formats of the data to be transmitted; converting the messages into data of a format used in the at least one transmission network”).

As was previously submitted, the present claims address issues where clock signal qualities received from the interface cards must be assessed by a processor to determine which type of standardized format the clock signals supplied belongs to (e.g., PDH, SDH, SONET) in order to effect synchronization. Since the clock signal quality information items provided by the different interface types are in different formats, the clock signal qualities from different interface types must be treated separately in the main processor. Accordingly, the main processor requires subunits to provide additional and separate processing for each of the clock signal quality information according to the format (PDH, SDH, SONET). Under the recited claims, the clock signal quality is processed according to a single algorithm in the system using an independent format, where conventional differentiation between the interface type is no longer required.

Wolf teaches a communication system operating according to the synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) or synchronous optical network (SONET) standard (col. 3, lines 6-10), where interface units are divided between “top” and “bottom” sides of the network elements to determine hierarchically which interface units will participate in synchronization (col. 3, lines 16-21; col. 4, lines 19-27). Each of the interface units are connected to a selection unit (1) and control unit (7) to determine hierarchical position and selection during operation (FIG. 1). As the interface units receive incoming clock signals (STM-N), the interface units generate a synchronization quality marker using a synchronization status message (SSM) and forward them to the control unit (col. 3, lines 28-40; see Abstract). Once the quality markers are received at the control unit, the control unit processes the quality markers (SSM) and makes a determination as to which qualities are acceptable (col. 3, line 56 - col. 4, line 7)

It should be noted that “STM” is well-known in the art as “Synchronous Transmission Module” and is the basic rate of transmission of the SDH network transmission standard (also of which SSM is a part of). Accordingly, *Wolf* clearly describes a synchronization system that operates *entirely under a single format* (see col. 3, lines 6-10). It cannot be reasonably asserted that generating service status messages (SSM) based off of STM clock signals is somehow “converting” the data describing the quality of the clock signal into messages, where the format of the messages is independent of a format of the data transmitted, as alleged in the Advisory Action. As argued above, the SSM messages are directly dependent on the SDH (or SONET) format under which the system is operating from.

Furthermore, with specific regard to claims 28 and 37, the converting occurs before the quality of the clock signal is assessed (“transmits the messages to the device for assessment”). *Wolf* clearly fails to show such a configuration, and the Final Office Action/Advisory Action fails to address this deficiency.

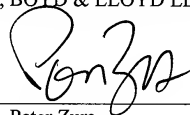
In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 28, 37 and 47 of the present application as well as the respective dependant claims are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be reversed and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this

Application No.: 09/786,063
Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request
Responsive to Final Rejection dated March 9, 2006

application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account
No.: 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



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Dated: August 9, 2006